

POWERS INSIST

Russia's Pledged "Open Door" Will be Closed.

HOLDS MANCHURIA

No Additional Treaty Ports as Were Promised.

WE CAN ONLY SUGGEST

Japan too Weak and England's Action Doubtful.

Washington, April 24.—Minister Conger, from Peking, has cabled to Secretary Hay a synopsis of the demands made upon China by Russia respecting control of Manchuria. This account agrees precisely with the full and accurate press report of Russia's last coup from the Chinese capital. Secretary Hay will take no action in the matter until he has consulted the facts to the president and has learned the latter's wishes.

The political impression here is that the Russian action is a distinct breach of faith with the United States. The Russian government pledged itself three times formally and the documents are of record that the open door should be maintained in Manchuria and Russian troops would be withdrawn as soon as peace was restored. Finally the latter promise took the shape of a treaty stipulation. It was provided that the evacuation should take place within three distinct periods. The last Russian soldier should have quit Manchuria on the 31st of this month, according to that treaty. But a plausible explanation for a temporary retention of the remaining Russian troops was offered by Russia in the claim that the country was still disturbed and that vigorous military methods were necessary in the interest of sanitation. Officials declare that there is no danger of war with Russia over this incident.

The government of the United States has recorded its ideas of what should be done in Manchuria, and as the result of Secretary Hay's projected conference with the president, it is probable that a further remonstrance will be added. But it is anticipated that Russia will not for a moment at least allow foreign opposition, or at least that of the United States, by carrying out its pledge as to the "open door." There will be no additional treaty ports in Manchuria if Russia succeeds in this last move. New Chwang, however, is still a treaty port, and until Russia makes a further move of applying her customs system to that port the United States products may enter there at the same uniform rate of 5 per cent duty as are collected in the southern Chinese ports. An official of the government well informed regarding Chinese affairs says that the step taken by Russia is one for which she has been preparing for a number of years. Extraordinary as it may seem, he says that there seems to be no way of preventing the consummation of Russia's plan. Japan is in no position to dispute the action, and even with the assistance of England it is doubtful, in his opinion, whether the purpose of Russia could be changed. As to the interest of this government he said it was doubtful whether the United States could look with favor upon the far greater control of the Pacific ocean which the new move would give Russia. He had no doubt that Russia would eventually apply the Russian tariff to the new territory, in which case the United States would have to sell the Russians raw materials for manufacture in place of the finished products which now go to that part of China. He said that there had been great development in Manchuria under the Russian auspices during the past few years, and especially in the last eight months. Immense sums of money, he said, have been spent in building railroads, bridges and other works to improve transportation routes and build industries. This was especially the case at Dainy, the port about forty miles from Port Arthur, which has not only been greatly improved but well fortified. This port is in the leased territory which was discussed in correspondence between the United States and Russian governments in 1895. When Russia leased for 25 years certain Chinese ports, assurances were given Ambassador Hitchcock that the open-door world be maintained. To make this more emphatic Secretary Hay, September 6, addressed a note to Ambassador Tormer, calling attention to the categorical assurances given his predecessor by Russia when she leased the ports of Port Arthur, Ta-Lien-Wan and the adjacent territory in the Lia Tung peninsula. On December 1, 1896, Count Muraviev replied to Mr. Hay's note, saying that the imperial government had demonstrated its firm intention to follow the policy of the "open door." In the same note the count said that as to other territory the fixing of duties belong to China itself, and "the imperial government has no intention of claiming privileges for its own subjects to the exclusion of other foreigners. The count said:

"The imperial government is happy to have complied with the wishes of the American government."

Count Cassini, the Russian ambassador, said concerning the announcement made in the dispatches from Peking relative to conditions in China:

"I have not yet received official news and in consequence cannot discuss the points mentioned in the dispatches. I can say, generally speaking, however, that it is only natural that Russia, being concerned in Manchuria, should take measures to prevent a repetition of the troubles of 1890, as well as to insure in that country her political influence which was never contested, owing to its geographical position."

In answer to questions as to how the proposed terms must be in the dispatch from Peking would affect American trade interests in Manchuria, the ambassador, repeating that he could not discuss the details of the terms mentioned in the

dispatches, saying he had not been officially advised of them, said:

"The assurances which Russia has given on different occasions relative to the security of American trade interests in Manchuria continue in full force and could not be otherwise construed."

Another reason which leads at least some of the diplomats to think that the United States will move first in the matter of representations to China to withhold acquiescence to the Russian terms is that Russia has made, as one of the conditions precedent to the evacuation of New Chwang and the two southern ports of Manchuria, the condition that there shall be no new treaty ports in Manchuria, whereas the draft of the new commercial treaty between the United States and China provides for the opening of Mukden and Taku Shan as treaty ports. The date for Russia's withdrawal from New Chwang was April 15, but it is not known how long before that date Russia communicated the demands to China which were announced in the Peking dispatches this morning and it is not therefore known whether the proposal's condition relative to treaty ports antedates the dispatching of the American Chinese commercial treaty. Light on this point is now of especial interest. Under the terms of the Manchurian convention the final evacuation of Manchuria by Russia is to take place next September, therefore the diplomatic representatives of the powers in interest in the event of the Manchurian developments since the determination of the present issue will materially affect the final step. It is not expected in diplomatic quarters that any representations will be made by the powers affected by the Russian demands to Russia direct, but rather to the Chinese government. This would be effective, Russia of the views of the powers moving in the matter as if a note should be directed to the Russian foreign office.

Peking, April 24.—According to the Chinese story, when Prince Cing, the Chinese secretary, received the Russian demands he refused to sign the document setting them forth to M. Plancon, Russian charge d'affaires, and refused to consider them. W. B. Townley, first secretary of the British legation, and Ouchida Yuayui, the Japanese minister, counseled Prince Cing to remain firm and to insist upon the restoration of Manchuria according to agreement, which stipulates that the Chinese government shall be replaced in Manchuria in all respects as it was before the war.

The United States has not yet taken formal action in the premises. Japan is more strongly opposed than any other power to Russia's aggression, but it is not believed here that she will go to the length of war.

The policy of Russian ambassadors abroad and at St. Petersburg of fostering reports that China was on the eve of insurrection has been watched here for some time past with much interest as attempting to create the impression that Russia was justified in holding Manchuria.

The United States Minister Conger has been accused of the repeated newspaper reports that he has reported to Washington that he expected an uprising and an attack upon the legations. All his reports have been of a directly opposite tenor; he has sent nothing that could possibly be construed in an alarmist tone.

London, April 25.—The daily papers this morning, while protesting at the cynical and almost brutal methods of the Russian move in Manchuria, take different views as to how this action should be met. No surprise is expressed at the tenacity displayed by Russia in holding on to Manchuria. Little else has been expected since Russia built the railroad and no one has thought for a moment that China would be able to make an effective resistance. It is recognized that the United States, Great Britain and Japan are the only powers likely to protest; France is expected to agree to anything that Russia does, and Germany is considered as indifferent.

The opposition papers attack the government for its "weak kivered policy in China, and contend that it ought to have secured some equivalent if Russia is to have Manchuria.

The Daily News, referring to the claim of the United States for treaty ports in Manchuria, which Russia is opposing, says:

"It is their quarrel, and not ours. It is to our interest to come to terms with Russia in Asia and let her have Manchuria if she will leave us alone in India."

The Standard thinks this virtual seizure of Manchuria should not be allowed to pass without the strongest protests and something more. This paper says:

"United States has a strong claim to a definite and unqualified recognition of its political ambitions or arriere pense of the policy of the open door in eastern Asia."

Paris, April 25.—Owing to the absence of Foreign Minister Del Casse, foreign office officials maintain reserve in the matter of Russian terms for the evacuation of Manchuria, but the belief is that the United States would be interested in the strong ties existing between France and Russia assure at least sympathetic support of Russia's position or else silent acquiescence. It is pointed out that France and Russia have been in accord throughout in the matter of policy toward China; furthermore, the view prevails in well informed circles that the peace to be secured by the amity between Russia and France is of far greater importance than any question relating to China. French travelers under the patronage of the government have made extensive tours in Manchuria and their reports have emphasized the extent of Russian military and industrial predominance and the beneficial results which Manchuria by Russia of railroads and other modern appliances in place of the antiquated Chinese methods of communication, etc. There is a reason to believe that the government will at least passively the conclusion of these French observers.

It is also pointed out that French interests in southern China are identical with those of Russia in northern China, as the Chinese territory abutting on French Tonquin bears the same relation to France that Manchuria does to Russia. Advice recently received at the foreign office indicated disturbances along the French-Chinese border following the removal of Viceroy Lu and it was then semi-officially announced that French troops would be moved across the border if French interests were further menaced. This corresponds to the Russian course in the north, where Russian troops originally occupied Manchuria on the ground that this step was necessary for the protection of Russian interests.

Atchison, Kan., April 24.—C. M. Ruthburn, superintendent of the Missouri Pacific lines, north and west of Kansas City has presented his resignation to take effect May 1.

STARTS AFRESH

President Once More on the Cars Eastward Bound.

ASSISTS TO LAY STONE

Corner at Gate of Northern Entrance to the Park.

ADDRESSES THE PEOPLE

Upon the Beauty and Usefulness of the Play Ground.

Gardiner, Mont., April 24.—President Roosevelt's second annual tour of the west. Before going, however, he participated in the laying of the corner stone of the new gate at the northern entrance to Yellowstone park. The ceremony was performed according to the Masonic ritual and was in charge of the grand officers of the state of Montana.

There was placed in the stone a picture of President Roosevelt, a number of coins and a number of newspapers and Masonic emblems.

Special trains brought hundreds of people here, including a large body of Masons and as the weather was perfect, the scene was a very pretty one. The president rode down from the post accompanied by Major Pitcher and was escorted to a gaily decorated stand, where he delivered an address. Troops B and C of the Third cavalry, from Fort Yellowstone, were drawn up in front of the stand as a guard of honor. Frank E. Smith, grand master, conducted the services. The president, on behalf of the Masons of the state, was presented with a Masonic khamsa, mounted on a nugget of Montana gold.

The president began his address by thanking the people and the soldiers for their enjoyable two week's holiday and then spoke of the natural wonders of the park:

"The Yellowstone park," he said, "is something absolutely unique in this world, as far as I know. Nowhere else in any civilized country is there to be found such a tract of veritable wonderland, made accessible to all visitors where at the same time not only the scenery of the wilderness, but the wild creatures of the park are scrupulously preserved as they were, the only change being that these wild creatures have been so carefully protected as to show literally astounding tameness. The creation and preservation of such a natural playground in the midst of our people as a whole is a credit to the nation, but above all a credit to Montana, Wyoming and Idaho. It has been preserved with wide foresight. The scheme of its preservation is noteworthy in its essential democracy. This park was created and now is administered for the benefit and enjoyment of the people. The government must continue to appropriate for it, especially in the direction of completing and perfecting an excellent system of drive-ways. The only way that the people as a whole can secure themselves and their children the enjoyment in perpetuity of what the Yellowstone park has to give is by assuming the ownership in the name of the nation and by jealously safeguarding and preserving the scenery, the forests and the creatures. At present it is rather singular that a greater number of people come from Europe to see it than come from our own eastern states to see it. I hope that the people of the United States will be so interested in it that they will be able to see it more and more of our people who dwell far off will appreciate its really marvelous character. Incidentally I should like to point out that some time people will awake to the fact that the park has special beauties to be seen in winter, and any person who can go through it in that season on skis will enjoy himself as he scarcely could elsewhere. I wish especially to congratulate the people of Montana, Wyoming and Idaho and notably you of Gardiner and Custer and the immediate outskirts of the park, for the way in which you have heartily cooperated with the superintendent to prevent acts of vandalism and destruction."

The preservation of the forests is of course the matter of prime importance in every public sense of this character. In this region of the Rocky Mountains and the great plains the problem of the water supply is the most important part of the hope-makers. Congress has not of recent years done anything more important than passing the irrigation bill and nothing is more essential to the preservation of the water supply than the preservation of the forests. Montana has in its water power a source of development which has hardly been touched.

"This water power will be seriously impaired if ample protection is not given the forests. Therefore this park, like the forest reserves generally is of the utmost advantage to the country around from the merely utilitarian side. But of course this park, also, because of its peculiar features is to be preserved as a beautiful playground. Here all the wild creatures of the old days are being preserved, and their overflow into the surrounding country means that the people of the surrounding country, so long as they see that the laws are observed by all, will be able to insure to themselves and to their children and to their children's children, most of the old-time pleasure of the hunt in the wilderness. I have been literally astounded with the enormous quantities of elk and at the number of deer antelope and mountain sheep which I have seen on their wintering grounds, and the deer and sheep in particular are quite as tame as range stock. A few buffalo are being preserved. I wish very much that the government could somewhere provide for an experimental breeding station of cross-breeds between buffalo and the common cattle. If these cross-breeds could be successfully per-

petuated we could have animals which would produce a robe quite as good as the old buffalo robe, with which twenty years ago everyone was familiar, and animals, moreover, which would be so hardy that I think they would have a distinct commercial importance. They would, for instance, be admirably suited for Alaska territory, which I look to see develop astoundingly within the next decade or two not only because of its furs and fisheries, but because of its agricultural and pastoral possibilities."

At the conclusion of the ceremonies the president's train pulled out for Livingston. Here John Burroughs will leave the party and will spend a short time at Spokane, Washington, and on a ranch in Montana, after which he will return to his home at Peekskill, N. Y.

BRITISH LOSE 200.

Fighting in Somaliland Results in Heavy English Loss.

London, April 24.—A report has been received here that a skirmish has occurred at Maylobo, forty miles from Silado, in which 200 men and ten officers of the British force were killed. The Somali losses are not known.

The war office today received from Brigadier General Manning, in command of the British forces in Somaliland, a dispatch dated twenty miles westward of Galadi, Somaliland, April 19, as follows:

"I regret to report that a force of 200 men under the command of Colonel Cobbe, which started April 1, to reconnoitre the road to Walwal, had a most serious check, April 17. On the morning of April 17 Colonel Cobbe was at Gumburu, forty miles westward of Galadi, and had decided to return to Galadi owing to the serious difficulty in finding the road to Walwal and to the shortness of water. He was about to leave his camp when the Somali force which was firing was heard in the direction of a small party under the command of Captain Olney, which had been sent in a westerly direction to reconnoitre."

"At 9:15 in the morning Colonel Cobbe dispatched Colonel Plunkett with 160 men of the second battalion of the King's African Rifles, 48 of the Second Sikhs and two Maxim guns for the capture of Captain Olney if necessary. As a matter of fact, Captain Olney had not been engaged. Col. Plunkett, on joining the detachment continued to push on. At 11:45 Col. Cobbe heard a heavy fire in the direction taken by Col. Plunkett and about 1 in the afternoon a few fugitives coming in reported that Col. Plunkett had been defeated with loss."

The news has been fully corroborated since and I have to report the total loss of Col. Plunkett's party with the exception of 37 Xaos who have arrived here."

"The latest information extracted from the fugitives is to the effect that Col. Plunkett pushed on after the enemy's force to the open country seven miles westward of Gumburu, where he was attacked by a very strong force of mounted troops and the enemy's infantry, who attacked at close quarters. He kept back the enemy until he had no more ammunition, when he formed a square and charged with bayonets in the direction of Col. Cobbe's camp. He moved some distance in this manner but a great many men, including Col. Plunkett himself, were killed or wounded by the pursuing force."

At last the enemy's infantry overwhelmed the square and annihilated them all with the exception of the 37 fugitives above mentioned."

The dispatch closes with a list of the officers and men missing, and no doubt killed in action, namely: Col. A. W. V. Plunkett, Captains Johnston, Olney, Olney, Norris and McKinnon, and Lieut. Col. Cobbe and Boil, all of the King's African Rifles; Captain Vizey of the Second Sikhs; Captain Sims of the India Medical staff; two white privates, 48 men of the Second Sikhs and 124 men of the African Rifles. The two Maxim guns were also lost.

Another dispatch from General Manning, who, immediately on hearing of the defeat of Colonel Plunkett started for Gumburu with 400 men, says further information reached him from Col. Cobbe to the effect that the latter with 200 troops was encamping with plenty of food and supplies and four days' water. He has about a thousand camels and does not think he can withdraw from his position without assistance because the scrub is thick and the enemy's forces so numerous as to make the effort impossible."

General Manning adds: "I march again directly and expect to arrive at Gumburu tomorrow at noon. I shall accomplish the extrication of Colonel Cobbe with as much alacrity as is possible. I can only carry sufficient water for the march to Gumburu, returning directly. I shall therefore be unable to advance against the enemy if the latter holds back."

LEE BEFORE THE JURY.

If He Does Not Tell All, Kelly to Be Called.

St. Louis, Mo., April 24.—Lieutenant Governor Lee will again go before the grand jury Monday. The two grand juries, that at Jefferson City and the local city jury, will convene in St. Louis Monday morning and take up the boodle investigation simultaneously. It is said that both sessions will be of the greatest importance and urgency of bench warrants may follow. The evidence given by Lieutenant Governor Lee to the grand jury today, it is said, did not in any way suffice to bring to light all that he is supposed to know. It is presumed he will be subjected to a rigid examination Monday.

D. J. Kelly, of New York, may yet be given a chance to turn state's evidence if he so desires. If all the evidence submitted by Governor Lee does not meet the satisfaction of the grand jury it is believed Kelly will be called. It is said that Kelly will be asked to tell what he knows to save himself from prosecution. Detective Tracy, of St. Louis, is still in New York endeavoring to trace Kelly. Circuit Attorney Folk refused to discuss the matter when questioned concerning Kelly.

DEFENSE IS CLOSED.

Howard's Defense Is Not Strong and Is Contradicted.

Frankfort, Ky., April 24.—In the trial of James Howard today, Dan Vaughan testified that he was sick in bed on the day that Gould was killed, and was not on the street at all. This was a hard blow to the defense, as Howard in his testimony told of seeing Vaughan on the street just before Gould was shot. Another witness for the defense had said that he saw Vaughan that day and pointed him out to Howard. The defense closed its direct evidence of the morning session, and the remainder of the day was devoted to rebuttal testimony.

ACTION LIKELY

Case of Tyners Referred to Department of Justice.

QUESTION NOW LIES

Were Papers Taken Government Property.

NO PREDICTION MADE

But Seemingly Others May Yet be Involved in Scandal.

Washington, April 24.—The postmaster general this afternoon certified to the attorney general for such action as he may deem necessary in the cases of persons involved in the abstraction of the papers from the safe of the assistant attorney general for the postoffice department. The papers include affidavits of Acting Attorney General Christy, who was at his desk when Mrs. Tynes, the wife of the dismissed assistant attorney general, came to the office, of other attaches of the office present at the time and of the inspectors who made reports of the incident. Postmaster General Payne's letter forwarding the papers, made no recommendation beyond submitting the case for such action as the department of justice might deem necessary and proper.

After the transmission of the papers to the department of justice, Attorney General Knox said the affidavits contained no information as to the character of the papers taken or as to their ownership. He has called the attention of the postmaster general to the law relating to the abstraction of public documents and asks what action he requests or recommends.

Attorney General Knox today expressed the opinion to Postmaster General Payne that unless there is something to show whether the documents taken from the safe are government property or private papers, no case would lie. The statement was made after Mr. Knox had gone over the papers forwarded to him by the postoffice department. Mr. Payne replied by stating the circumstances attending the taking of the papers and the fact that most of the papers filed in such government safes are of a confidential nature and therefore are not of record. There will be a conference tomorrow between Mr. Payne and Mr. Knox. The position taken by the postoffice department is that it has done all that it is possible to do to establish the facts in the case; that the propriety of the act is of equal importance to the nature of what was taken and that any further steps rest with the department of justice. Attorney Ross Perry, of this city, counsel for the Tyners called on the postmaster general subsequent to his interview with Attorney General Knox. He told the postmaster general that the Tyners would be glad to have the postmaster general or any representative of his department look over the papers at the Tynes residence. Mr. Payne talked with Mr. Perry at some length and pointed out to him that the Tyners were given an opportunity immediately after the papers were taken to open them in the presence of the officers of the department and had refused to show them or to indicate to the government representatives even the nature of the papers. Mr. Payne was asked subsequently if he declined Mr. Perry's proposition, but he said he could not discuss that phase of the question. It may be stated as the department's attitude, however, that it will not give much weight to any papers that are returned and that it is unlikely any further serious effort will be made to recover the papers in view of the fact that there is no way of showing whether any papers returned were the ones actually taken. Postmaster General Payne said tonight:

"If there was any motive to doing away with any intention of taking away with them there has been ample time to do it. Whether the papers were private or not, the propriety of the act is apparent to say the least. I regard it as quite improper to take from a private citizen the papers of his private papers. If Mr. Tynes or Mrs. Tynes, or of anybody else in the manner that those papers were taken as to take any other papers. The propriety of the act itself is sufficient to remove any officer of the government."

Mr. Payne said that he was not contemplating the suspension of any official in connection with the incident although he could not predict what might develop. He said that he had called on the officers of the postoffice department and subsequently an assistant attorney general for that department, today submitted a letter to the postmaster general regarding the latter's statement his charges against Mr. Barrett are under investigation. The statement is made in the letter that the postmaster general has said he has had of any charges of any character whatever against his conduct either while in the department or subsequently and he urges an early searching investigation of all his acts. Mr. Barrett then quotes a letter he addressed to the postmaster general from Baltimore under date of March 31 in which he said:

"There have appeared recently in the press of the country statements that C. Campbell has filed charges with the president involving my integrity, both as an official of your department and as a practicing attorney since my retirement therefrom, nearly two and a half years ago and that the president had directed an investigation thereof. Subsequently interviews with Mr. Campbell appeared in New York papers, denying Mr. Campbell any charges and stating that he knew nothing whatever in any way reflecting upon me. But without waiting for confirmation of the reports of an investigation having been ordered and without regard to what such charges,

BULLETIN OF The Wichita Daily Eagle.

Wichita, Saturday, April 25, 1903

Weather for Wichita Today: Fair

IMPORTANT NEWS OF TODAY

1. Russia Holds Territory
2. Ferguson to Invite Hitchcock
3. Wichita Livestock Market
4. Eagle's Editorial Page
5. Southeastern Line to be Built
6. Appeal From Pratt County
7. Mormons Ordered Out
8. First Fruits of Irrigation

If any, may be, I feel it my duty to say, in justice to myself and to the postoffice department, that my conduct as assistant attorney for the department and as practicing attorney since I severed my connection with the department is open to the most searching investigation, which I invite, and I will willingly furnish any information within my power that may be desired."

Acting Postmaster General Wynne made a formal acknowledgment of this letter, saying it had been referred to Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristol, "who states that he will receive any information you may desire to furnish him."

BLOTTED OFF THE MAP.

Butte is No Longer to be Reached by Western Union Wire.

Salt Lake, Utah, April 24.—Acting under instructions from Superintendent McMichael at Minneapolis, Manager Wild of the Western Union office at Butte, promptly at midnight last night cut out every instrument working in that office except the press leased wire. When "30" on the night report had been sent this wire, too, was cut out, the office locked up and the operators released from all further duty. Until the troubles with the labor unions are settled it is announced that the office will remain closed.

The troubles arose over the demand of the A. D. T. messengers for a recognition of their recently formed union. This was refused. The messengers promptly struck and when the Western Union attempted to use its own messengers, not only were they assaulted and injured, but the office also was stoned and pelted with decayed fruit and eggs, and it was decided to blot the city from the telegraph map of the Western Union.

There appears to be little probability that the Western Union will resume business in Butte before Monday at least. A movement is said to be already under way, started by the Business Men's association to have the trades and union labor drop the A. D. T. messenger union from its protection. A petition in this effect, it is understood, has been started. The trades and labor union will meet Sunday and the matter will be taken up at that time. In the meantime the Western Union office will remain closed, the officials here and in the east being determined to hold to the stand they have taken.

STILL THERE IS TROUBLE.

Illinois Solons Pass Resolution of "No Confidence" in Speaker.

Springfield, Ill., April 24.—The Illinois house of representatives today, by a vote of 72 to 66, declared "no confidence" in its presiding officer, Speaker John H. Miller, whose alleged unwarranted use of the gavel in furthering a proposed amendment affecting street railway franchises in Chicago led to a riot yesterday. A committee of five, all persons friendly to the speaker, had been appointed by him to investigate the charges of attempted bribery in connection with the passage of the Muller traction bill. There was a strong feeling among the anti-Miller legislators that there was a possibility of whitewash, and steps were taken to increase the committee in such a manner as to have the speaker's appointees in a minority if anything in the line of a whitewash should be attempted. The Miller men fought hard to retain the committee as originally appointed, and the report of the committee was made a special order for next Tuesday morning. At the same time a subpoena issued for George W. Hinman of Chicago was made returnable on the same date. It was the intention of the house to interrogate him as to the facts in an editorial in the Inter Ocean of Chicago, alleging bribery in connection with the Muller bill was based.

The anti-Miller men came into representative hall today determined to force the speaker to prove his charges or withdraw them. If he could not readily be induced to act they had decided that no business should be transacted in the house until he had complied with their demands.

They had their own way in everything from first to last and the speaker's forces were defeated at every point.

DEATH IN THE MINE.

Four Lives Lost and a Score of Others Injured.

Glance Bay, N. S. W., April 24.—A gas explosion tonight killed four men and probably fatal injuries to another in the reserve colliery today, while five damp overcame a score or more of men, who are now in St. John's hospital.

The dead: Michael S. McNeal, miner; Henry Jackson, leader; Joseph King, helper; William King, driver. Probably fatally injured: Whiteway, miner.

The explosion took place in the French slope of the Reserve mine. Some gas had accumulated in the level, but had been ordinarily removed. On the level it is customary to work with naked lights. Today the five men were at work when the gas ignited from a lamp, and the explosion followed. The bodies were recovered.

EXISTS BY LAW

Baer Before Interstate Commerce Commission.

RAILROADS OWN MOST

Stock of Anthracite Coal Companies in Pennsylvania.

PRODUCED NO CONTRACT

Said He Was Tired of the People Who are Carping.

New York, April 24.—President George F. Baer, of the Philadelphia and Reading company was present today when the interstate commerce commission resumed its hearing on the complaint of William R. Hearst against the anthracite coal carrying railroads.

Joseph J. Jernyn, an independent mine operator at Scranton, testified that he sold his coal to the Susquehanna Coal company. He promised to send a copy of his contract to the commission.

President Baer was next called. He said he was president of an many companies he could not remember the names of all of them. The annual report of the Reading company, Mr. Baer said, will show all the properties controlled by that holding company. Some of the companies, whose stock is so controlled, he said, mine coal. Some carry coal. Some deal in iron. He could not give off-hand the capital stock of the companies.

Mr. Baer said that about 81 per cent of the mining properties of the anthracite region is owned or controlled by the Philadelphia and Reading Coal company. About 21 per cent of the coal produced is owned by the Philadelphia and Reading company.

Mr. Shearn read to the witness the section of the Pennsylvania constitution which forbids companies incorporated as carriers from engaging in the business of mining or manufacturing and asked if the operation of Reading Coal and Iron company is in violation of that provision.

"The Reading Coal and Iron company exists under the statutes of the state of Pennsylvania," replied Mr. Baer. "It does not evade any laws of the state nor of the United States. I shall be glad to have the question tested in any form you may select."

Mr. Baer added that some of his contracts with the coal operators were purchasing and some transportation. The coal was purchased by a railroad company, which had authority in its charter to deal in coal.

Mr. Baer said he never believed the mine was an intention to build the railroad, protected by Shearn and Watkins. It first occurred to him to buy up all the stock of the Temple Iron company when he wanted the iron company's charter to buy the Shearn and Watkins collieries. Mr. Watkins, he said, had a scheme to establish a great freight company in New York to buy and sell coal and consolidated the different sales agents with one company.

Witness said in reply to a question, that he wanted to head off the proposed independent railroad. It would have hurt his companies and the public because the cost of carrying coal would have been high. If like conditions arose again he would advise his stockholders to do again as they had done.

"Even if it be in violation of the law?" asked Mr. Shearn.

"I welcome you to proceed in any court of the United States," said Mr. Baer, rising and facing the lawyer, "and if you can show that we have violated any law we will undo it. I'm tired of you people, of whom you represent the people, trying to make out that all business men are trying to evade the law."

Does your statement include the president of the United States?" interrupted Mr. Shearn.

"I have no criticism to make of the president of the United States," replied Mr. Baer.

Mr. Baer said he could not recall details of the contracts with other companies and that if he counsel decided to produce the contracts he would abide by his decision.

Further examination of Mr. Baer was postponed until Wednesday next.

SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL

Rome, April 24.—Great satisfaction is felt at the Vatican at the official announcement that King Edward will visit the pope, although some arrangement by which the British sovereign would not have to start from the embassy for the Vatican would have been preferred. The contention that his majesty start from the embassy met with strong opposition from some of the Vatican advisers and was only overcome through the personal intervention of the pope, who said he would not allow details of form to interfere with a meeting which he most desired, as he wished to maintain with King Edward the same good relations and friendly intercourse he had with his mother.

At the Quirinal, where the pope is always made not to interfere with the relations guests desire to maintain with the pope, thus demonstrating the complete independence of the papacy, it is remarked that the Vatican is allowing King Edward to start from an embassy accredited to the King of Italy, a concession hitherto constantly refused, has created a precedent that may in the future prove most embarrassing to the Holy See.

THE WEATHER.

Washington, April 24.—Forecast: Oklahoma and Indian Territory—Fair, colder Saturday; Sunday fair, warmer. Kansas—Fair Saturday; Sunday fair, warmer.